

Date: 28 April 2025  
Our ref:  
Your ref: [Click here to enter text.](#)



[Click here to enter text.](#)

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Cardnell

**Proposal : Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan submission**  
**Location :**

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Policy W02** Natural England support this policy

**Policy W03** Natural England support this policy

**Policy W04** Natural England support this policy

**Policy W5** Natural England support this policy

**Policy W06** Natural England support the policy as set out but advise that because of the need to adapt to changing climate conditions it may be considered of value to insert a sentence confirming that whilst native species are the preferred option the Town Council will take account of any updated national guidance concerning appropriate species to be planted during the plan period.

**Policy W07** Natural England support this policy, the Council may wish to make further reference to routes such as bridleways in the supporting text and place an emphasis on maintaining and where possible enhancing routes. In some more built up locations the provision of routes which are designed to avoid conflicts between different user groups eg separating out walkers from cyclists may be desirable.

**Policy W08** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W09** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W10** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W11** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W12** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W14** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W16** Natural England support this policy.

Para 9.54 is welcomed by Natural England.

**Policy W25**

Natural England does not object to the main objectives of the eg transport interchange, sports and recreation hub. However the policy should be refined to make it clear to define that land to the north and east of the existing hard surfaced areas should be allocated as part of the Nature Park and in particular is not suitable for housing solar panels. I enclose a plan of the area which should be retained for nature conservation at Annexe 1.

**Policy W30** Natural England supports the policy protection offered to the National Landscape and sustainable development policies.

**Policy W41** Natural England support this policy.

**Policy W42** Natural England support this policy. It is advised that under section I the text be expanded to include *marine and terrestrial biodiversity*.

Objective 3 Natural England support this objective and its positive targets.

**Weymouth Neighbourhood Plan HRA November 2024**

Natural England advise that the policy adjustments proposed to secure further consideration of adverse effects on habitats sites are agreed.

The reports conclusion is relying of a number of previous assessments some of which are now many years old. It is advised that there is a brief consultation with the Councils Forward Planning Team concerning the following matters to confirm the robustness of the approach and consistency with Dorset Councils Local Plan HRA advisors:

- Water resources and quality – do the conclusions for the Wessex Water WRMP of 2018 remain robust in 2025?
- Recreational pressure on Chesil Beach and the Fleet SAC and Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs SAC – are conclusions based upon the Local Plan adopted in 2018 still robust and consistent with current HRA advice to Dorset Council?

Subject to this sense check of the conclusions reached being agreed with Dorset Council, Natural England can advise that the conclusions of the HRA are accepted.

I trust this advice will be of assistance to the Council.

Yours sincerely

Nick Squirrell  
Senior Officer Conservation and Planning  
Dorset Team  
Wessex Area Team  
Natural England  
Mob: [REDACTED]  
Email [REDACTED]

## Annexe 1

### Policy W25

Area to be retained for biodiversity and nature conservation as a part of the Nature Park.

